IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims are set forth below and have been amended and/or cancelled, without prejudice, where noted:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~31, wherein the HIPS has a MFI ranging from about 1.5 g/10 min. to about 15 g/10 min., as measured by ASTM D1238 condition g.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, where the article exhibits improved melt stability as compared with a product made from the HIPS without the second polymer~~relatively high MFI polystyrene homopolymer~~, and wherein a melt instability of an extruded polymer sample is measured according to the Equation 1:

$$\kappa_{sample} = \frac{UPL_{sample} - LPL_{sample}}{UPL_{control} - LPL_{control}} \quad \text{(Equation 1)}$$

wherein $UPL_{control}$ is the Upper Prediction Limit of a control polymer having high melt instability extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero, wherein $LPL_{control}$ is the Lower Prediction Limit of the control polymer extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero, wherein UPL_{sample} is the Upper Prediction Limit of the extruded polymer sample extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero, wherein LPL_{sample} is the Lower Prediction Limit of the extruded polymer sample extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero, and wherein κ_{sample} closer to 1 indicates a relatively unstable extruded polymer sample and a κ_{sample} closer to 0 indicates a relatively stable extruded polymer sample.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, where the article is extruded at a shear rate from about 1,000 to about 15,000 s^{-1}.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) A styrenic resin blend consisting of styrenic polymers comprising at least one relatively low MFI HIPS resin and at least one relatively high MFI polystyrene homopolymer.

9. (Withdrawn) The styrenic resin blend of claim 8 where the HIPS resin has a MFI ranging from about 1.5 g/10 min. to about 15 g/10 min., and the polystyrene homopolymer has a MFI ranging from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min.

10. (Withdrawn) The styrenic resin blend of claim 8 where the weight ratio of HIPS resin to polystyrene homopolymer ranges from about 90/10 to about 50/50.

11. (Withdrawn) The styrenic resin blend of claim 8 where a product made from the resin blend has improved melt stability as compared with a product made from the HIPS resin without the polystyrene homopolymer.

12. (Withdrawn) A laminated article made with the styrenic resin blend of claim 8.

13. (Withdrawn) A styrenic resin blend consisting of styrenic polymers comprising at least one HIPS resin having a MFI ranging from about 1.5 g/10 min. to about 15 g/10 min. and at least one polystyrene homopolymer having a MFI ranging from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min., wherein the weight ratio of HIPS resin to polystyrene homopolymer ranges from about 90/10 to about 50/50.

14. (Withdrawn) The styrenic resin blend of claim 13 where a product made from the resin blend has improved melt stability as compared with a product made from the HIPS resin without the r polystyrene homopolymer.

15. (Withdrawn) A laminated article made with the styrenic resin blend of claim 13.

16. (Withdrawn) A product made by the process comprising:

melt blending polymers consisting of styrenic polymers together to give a meltblend;

wherein said styrenic polymers are comprised of at least one relatively low MFI HIPS resin and at least one relatively high MFI polystyrene homopolymer; and

extruding the product from the melt blended polystyrenes.

17. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 16 where the HIPS resin has a MFI ranging from about 1.5 g/10 min. to about 15 g/10 min., and wherein the polystyrene homopolymer has a MFI ranging from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min.

18. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 16 where the weight ratio of HIPS resin to polystyrene homopolymer ranges from about 90/10 to about 50/50.

19. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 16 where the product has improved melt stability as compared with a product made from the relatively low MFI HIPS resin without the relatively high MFI polystyrene homopolymer.

20. (Withdrawn) The product of claim 16 where the product is extruded at a shear rate from about 1,000 to about 15,000 s^{-1}.

21. (Withdrawn) A product made by a process comprising:

melt blending together to give a melt blend:

at least one HIPS resin having a MFI ranging from about 1.5 g/10 min. to about 15 g/10 min.; and

at least polystyrene homopolymer having a MFI ranging from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min.;

where the weight ratio of HIPS resin to polystyrene homopolymer ranges from about 90/10 to about 50/50 and extruding the product from the melt blend.

22. (Withdrawn) The product_of claim 21 where the product has improved melt stability as compared with a product made from the relatively low MFI HIPS resin without the relatively high MFI polystyrene homopolymer.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of measuring the melt instability of an extruded polymer sample according to the Equation 1:

$$\kappa_{sample} = \frac{UPL_{sample} - LPL_{sample}}{UPL_{control} - LPL_{control}} \quad \text{(Equation 1)}$$

where $UPL_{control}$ is the Upper Prediction Limit of a control polymer having high melt instability extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero,

$LPL_{control}$ is the Lower Prediction Limit of the control polymer extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero,

UPL_{sample} is the Upper Prediction Limit of the extruded polymer sample extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero, and

LPL_{sample} is the Lower Prediction Limit of the extruded polymer sample extrapolated to a drawing speed equal to zero,

where κ_{sample} closer to 1 indicates a relatively unstable extruded polymer sample and a κ_{sample} closer to 0 indicates a relatively stable extruded polymer sample.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 where the control polymer and the sample polymer are selected from the group consisting of styrene polymers and styrene copolymers.

25. (Withdrawn) An article made from the styrenic resin blend of claim 1.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 where the article has a melt strength [N] of from 0.01 to 0.035.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 where the article has an instability kappa of from 0.2 to 0.045.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 where the article has an Izod of from 0.8 to 1.7 ft-lb/in.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 where the article has a flexural strength of from 8000 psi to 10500 psi.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 where the article~~product~~ has a Z average molecular weight (Mz) of from about 300,000 to 600,000.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of melt processing polystyrene comprising:

providing high impact polystyrene (HIPS);

melt blending the HIPS with a second polymer exhibiting a melt flow index (MFI) of from about 20 g/10 min. to about 40 g/10 min. as measured by ASTM D1238 condition g to form modified HIPS, wherein the modified HIPS comprises greater than 50 wt.% HIPS; and

melt processing the modified HIPS to form a polystyrene article.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the modified HIPS consists essentially of the HIPS and the second polymer.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the modified HIPS comprises from about 10 wt.% to about 30 wt.% second polymer.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the melt processing comprises extrusion.